

Minute of the Meeting of Westray Community Council held in the Westray School Community Classroom and via Teams on Monday, 20 April 2026 at 19:30

Present:

Mr Daniel Harcus, Mr Adam Baird, Mrs Janice Kirkness (via Teams), Mr Louis Pottinger, Mrs Elizabeth Drever and Mrs Rosalind Rendall.

In Attendance:

- Mrs Jenny McGrath, Community Council Liaison Officer (via Teams).
- Councillor Mellissa Thomson (via Teams).
- Councillor Heather Woodbridge (via Teams).
- Mrs Gina Rendall, Operations Manager, Westray Development Trust.
- Mrs Hayley Robinson, Clerk.

Order of Business

1. Apologies	2
2. Adoption of Minutes	2
3. Matters Arising	2
4. Correspondence	3
5. Financial Statements	3
6. Financial Requests	4
7. Consultation Documents.....	4
8. Reports from Representatives	5
9. Publications	5
10. Any Other Competent Business.....	6
11. Date of Next Meeting	6
12. Conclusion of Meeting	6

1. Apologies

Resolved to note that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Ann Rendall.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The minute of the meeting of Westray Community Council held on 9 February 2026 was adopted, being proposed by Mr Adam Baird and seconded by Mrs Rosalind Rendall.

3. Matters Arising

A. Transportation of the Deceased

The Chair updated members on the situation with the transportation of the deceased. SAS had reiterated their position that the ambulance cannot be used. A van would be available for use in an emergency. Councillor Heather Woodbridge requested that the correspondence with SAS be sent to her, so that she can take up the matter on behalf of the isles, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and provide Councillor Woodbridge with the requested information.

B. Chapel of Rest Refrigeration Unit

Gina Rendall, Operations Manager, Westray Development Trust, advised members that John Corse had been in contact to discuss the cooling facilities in the Chapel of Rest. The current facilities were malfunctioning and need replacing. A 'pop-up' mortuary unit with a capacity for three, as well as a hoist, had been suggested, the cost of which was approximately £8,500 and the hoist £1,800.

A discussion was had about the look of the unit, with some members feeling that a permanent built-in option would be more appropriate for the setting, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided and investigate other options.

C. Place Plan Funding

Gina Rendall, Operations Manager, Westray Development Trust, thanked the council for their provision of funding for the Westray Place Plan, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. School Car Park

Members were advised that OIC had refused their request to add a car park extension to the Active Travel Plan for the school, citing a focus on public transport and cycling for these funds, and it was:

1. Resolved to note the information provided.
2. Request that the lines in the current car park be re-painted.

4. Correspondence

A. Orkney Ferries - Prepaid Tickets and Bookings

Members had previously been sent information from Orkney Ferries regarding books of tickets, which had now expired and could not be used. The correspondence also advised that Orkney Ferries had taken the decision to request payment at the time of booking, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Meet the Buyer Event

Members had previously been sent information regarding a “Meet the Buyer” event in Orkney Auction Mart on 9 March, which was for anyone interested in tendering for the supply of services to assist with planned and reactive roads maintenance activities, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Orkney Marine Planning Stakeholder Update

Correspondence from the OIC Marine Planning Team had previously been sent to members, advising that the Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan had been formally adopted by Scottish Government Ministers, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. Isles Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit Update

Following an update, which had previously been forwarded to members, they expressed frustration at the lack of foresight by OIC and therefore the financial costs incurred, as the previous electronic signs had not been in situ for very long before being replaced with permanent signs, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

E. Social Impact of Salmon Farming on Rural Island Communities

A member shared that they had participated in the research project via Zoom, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

5. Financial Statements

A. General Fund

Following consideration of the General Finance statement as at 8 April 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the estimated balance of £44,140.85.

B. Community Council Grant Scheme

Following consideration of the CCGS statement as at 8 April 2026 it was:

Resolved:

1. To note that the main capping limit had £1,276.60 remaining, and that £755 and £780 remained available in the island and additional capping limits, respectively.
2. To request whether the Place Plan funding that had been recently sent for payment, qualified for inclusion in last year's budget due to the date of the invoice.

C. Community Development Fund

Following consideration of the CDF statement as at 8 April 2026, it was:

Resolved to note the fund balance of £0.

6. Financial Requests

A. Westray Place Plan

Resolved to note that the provision of £1,500 funding to WDT had previously been agreed via email.

B. C and B Harcus Sport Travel Costs

Resolved to note that the provision of £75 funding each to C and B Harcus had previously been agreed via email, and had been

C. Bag the Bruck

Resolved to note that the provision of £300 funding to WDT had previously been agreed via email towards Bag the Bruck, subject to CCGS approval.

D. Wellbeing Dance Class Subscription

Resolved to note that the provision of £300 funding to WDT had previously been agreed via email, subject to CCGS approval.

E. Westray Junior Rugby Club

The Clerk advised members that a request for funding for travel costs had been received from the Westray Junior Rugby Club, to enable children to attend a tournament in Caithness, and it was:

Resolved to provide £250 from the General Fund towards the trip.

7. Consultation Documents

A. Winter Service Policy 2026-2031

Members had previously been sent the above document to consider, which had a deadline of 9 April for comments, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Verge Maintenance Plan 2026

Members had previously been sent the above document to consider, which had a deadline of 1 May for comments, and it was:

It was resolved to note the information provided.

C. SEPA Flood Risk Management Update

Following consideration of SEPA's Flood Risk Management consultation, it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

8. Reports from Representatives

A. Transport

The Transport Representative thanked Orkney Ferries for amending boat times to allow Westray Youth Rugby team to attend a tournament, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

B. Planning

The Planning Representative advised that planning had been received for the construction of a new residence and that there was nothing of concern, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

C. Health and Care

The Health and Care Representative advised that there was no update available, and so it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

D. WDT

The WDT Representative advised that there was no further update available, and so it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

9. Publications

The following publications had previously been forwarded to members and were noted:

- Orkney Ferries - Statistics – March 2026.
- VAO Training and Funding Update – February and March 2026.
- Letter from School Place – February and March 2026.
- Community Payback Unpaid Work Scheme.

- Special Collection Rota 2026.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A. Internet Outage and Digital Resilience

Members expressed frustration at the handling of the recent internet outage by OLECG, particularly the lack of communication with WCC. It was also felt that lessons had not been learnt from the last outage, in particular the lack of a back-up satellite internet connection for Kalisgarth and the school. The plan to remove landline provision further increases the reliance on the cable infrastructure. Councillor Woodbridge advised that she would be writing to broadband providers to ask for their plans as to how they will tackle future outages, and so it was:

Resolved to note the information provide and follow-up with stakeholders in due course.

B. Village Path

The Chair requested an update on the progress of the village path, and it was:

Resolved that the Clerk would request an update from Democratic Services.

C. Rubbish Collections

Members expressed frustration with frequent cancellations of bin collections. Councillor Woodbridge expressed sympathy but highlighted that the council had no budget to purchase another vehicle. It was also noted that residents can request bins to assist with storage, and it was:

Resolved to note the information provided.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Following consideration of dates for the next meetings, it was:

Resolved that the next meetings of Westray Community Council would be held on Mondays 8 June 2026, and 24 August 2026 at 19:30 in Westray JH School Community Classroom and via Teams.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 20:37.